

NAVAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE

PROVIDING AN ASYMMETRIC WARFIGHTING ADVANTAGE



Naval Special Warfare: The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command actively contributes to Naval Special Warfare success by providing a broad array of environmental knowledge, giving warfighters tactical advantages in the forward battlespace. Environmental expertise in the highly-dynamic littoral and riverine environments are especially crucial to Special Forces who are often leading the fight in the global war on terrorism in remote regions of the world.

Naval Special Forces are playing a prominent role in military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The environmental information and expertise provided by Naval Oceanography is an integral part of the mission planning and execution process. Near real time intelligence allows NSW forces to use the environment for optimum effectiveness – enabling them to accomplish missions safer and more efficiently while providing critical go/no go recommendations.

Environmental Factors. Because Naval Special Forces often operate in near-shore, highly-dynamic areas, there are numerous environmental factors that impact mission accomplishment. These include: surf conditions; tides; currents; sea and swell heights; bathymetry; sea temperature; visibility; sediment characteristics; weather conditions; hazardous marine life; and lunar illumination.

Resources and Skills. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command resources and skills that contribute to Naval Special Warfare include:

- Data collection from a variety of sources and sensors, both on-scene and remote.
- Computing power of the Major Shared Resource Center and high-speed transmissions that deliver complex models and data to warfighters real-time.
- Tactical decision aids, satellite imagery with overlays, global and tactical level models and riverine models to improve decision-making of warfighting commanders.
- Global to tactical scale predictions of tide, surf, and current conditions that characterize the battlespace.
- Personnel with scientific expertise and data and imagery analysis skills providing direct support to the NSW Mission Support Center and NSW commanders.
- Reach back cells that work with on scene personnel to refine data, provide expert analysis and deliver products to warfighters.
- AUVs, UUVs, towed sensors and gliders that can collect data in hard to access and denied areas providing intelligence to NSW warfighters over extended periods of time.
- Versatile survey ships, HSLs, aircraft, buoys and other data collection platforms deployable around the world.

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